

Remarks

Claims 1-38 were originally filed. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 38 were previously amended, and Claims 7 and 36 were previously canceled.

Independent Claims 1 and 38 are being amended herein by deleting the reference to inorganic particles, so as to specify that when the reactive species is organic, the composition further comprises a hybrid organic/inorganic reactive species. Claims 1 and 38 are being further amended to specify that the hybrid organic/inorganic reactive species is used (alone or in combination with organic reactive species) without the addition of inorganic particles to the composition. Basis for these amendments can be found, for example, in unamended Claims 1 and 38 and in Paragraph [0046] of the instant patent application publication. Accordingly, Claims 4 and 38 are being amended by deleting references to inorganic particles, and Claims 17-22 are being canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103

Claims 1-6, 8-27, and 37-38 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/ 0012872 (Fleming et al., hereinafter referred to as Fleming) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0151032 (Ito et al., hereinafter referred to as Ito). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Fleming and Ito were discussed at length in Applicants' last submitted Amendment, in remarks that are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants continue to believe that the subject matter of Applicants' previously presented claims is indeed unobvious and patentable over this combination of references.

In order to advance prosecution, however, Applicants have further amended their claims to specify that a hybrid organic/inorganic reactive species is always present in the substantially inorganic photoreactive composition. The hybrid organic/inorganic reactive species can be present alone or in combination with organic reactive species. The claims further specify that the hybrid organic/inorganic reactive species (selected from silane compounds having at least one polymerizable organic group, hydrolysates of said silane compounds, and combinations thereof) is used in the composition without the addition of inorganic particles.

Fleming does not appear to describe such hybrid organic/inorganic reactive species, and, although at least some of the compositions of Ito comprise polymerizable, hydrolysable silane compounds as the resin component, such compounds are used in the Ito compositions in combination with inorganic particles. In fact, it appears that the use of inorganic particles is the primary focus of Ito. Thus, for at least these reasons, the combination of Fleming and Ito does not provide Applicants' claimed process. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection under Section 103 be withdrawn.

Claims 28-35 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/ 0012872 (Fleming et al., hereinafter referred to as Fleming) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0151032 (Ito et al., hereinafter referred to as Ito) as applied to Claims 1-6, 8-27, and 37-38, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,406,992 (Kurtz et al., hereinafter referred to as Kurtz). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Kurtz was described in Applicants' last submitted Amendment, in remarks that are incorporated herein by reference. The Examiner has relied upon Kurtz for its description of silicon deposition and has asserted that the subject matter of Claims 28-35 is obvious in view of the combination of Fleming, Ito, and Kurtz.

As explained above, however, the combination of Fleming and Ito fails to provide Applicants' claimed process. The addition of Kurtz' silicon deposition does not overcome the deficiencies of Fleming and Ito, and thus the combination of Fleming, Ito, and Kurtz also does not provide Applicants' claimed process. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that their claimed process is indeed patentable over this combination of references and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under Section 103.

Concluding Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of Applicants' claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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